- Check correlation survey has been undertaken to establish the barriers between waterlogged workings wherever danger of inundation exists.
- Assessment of requirement of survey personnel and survey instruments have been made and corrective action is being taken wherever required.
- Thrust has been given on the work of connecting mine plans to the national grid. Mine plan of all but two mines in CIL have been connected to national grid.
- A new technology for establishing the barrier between waterlogged workings by Radar, without physically proving the barrier by drilling, has been tried in some mines of BCCL in colaboration with National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar and the results have found to correlate with survey measurements. This method is being tried out of more mines.

(xiv) All fire stoppings are being made accessible or new fire stoppings are being constructed wherever old ones are not approachable.

Agreement with NSCN (IM)

*154. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is heading towards an agreement with the NSCN (IM) within a short time;

(b) if so, whether the demand for greater 'Nagaland' as being promoted by the NSCN (IM) is proposed to be conceded to; and

(c) if so, what are the measures taken to contain the popular sentiments of the people of other North-Eastern States, particularly Minipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Talks are continuing with the NSCN (IM) to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the problem in Nagaland. The

Government is equally committed to maintaining the integrity of the North-Eastern States.

Transmission and distribution losses of State Electricity Boards

*155. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while in 2000-2001 the total losses of State Electricity Boards were Rs. 20,220 crores and within a year it jumped to Rs. 26,000 crores;

(b) if so, is it attributable to transmission and distribution losses as is generally made out while in actual practice it is theft of power; and

(c) what measures Government is adopting to gradually elimimate these losses within a predetermined time-frame so that India may not sink deeper into the quagmire of power cuts and higher tariffs?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) According to the Annual Report of the Planning Commission on the Working of SEBs the estimated commercial losses with subsidy of the SEBs in India has increased from Rs. 17,793.72 crores in 2000-01 (Revised Estimate) to Rs. 24,837.22 crores in 2001-02 (Annual Plan)†.

(b) The losses of SEBs are attributable to a combination of factors such as irrational tariff structures, high level of transmission & distribution losses and power theft, low level of operational efficiency , poor metering, billing and collection etc.

(c) Government have drawn up strategy in consultation with State Governments for revival of financial health of SEBs and gradual elimination of these losses. Important steps taken are as follows:—

(i) Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act has been enacted to enable State Governments to constitute State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) for rationalization of electricity tariff and for promotion of efficiency, economy and competition. So far SERCs are functional in 15 States. SERCs of 12 States have already issued tariff orders.

†(Figures projected during Annual Plan discussion)